16 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT Course Report for Vietnam Orientation

No. 11, 5 - 9 December 1966

1. Course changes: The Orientation ran as scheduled 25X1A9a except for the following changes: Messers 25X1A9a gave the review of Thailand and Laos which was 25X1A9a to be given by sat in on the Friday afternoon Panel, while Mr was not able to be present. Mr. could not be present to give his lecture, and 25X1A9a he has not been able to do so, for one reason or another, since his last appearance in March; his schedule seems to be in eternal conflict with the Vietnam Orientation.

- Course evaluation: Three factors made this an excellent Orientation; some elaboration is in order:
- The members of the class asked more questions than has usually been the case; over half asked at least one question; and a third were regular and stimulating interrogators. cularly articulate were

Furthermore, the questions were not restricted to personnel matters or the work situation in Saigon but ranged over substantive issues of war and politics in Southeast Asia.

The quality of lecturers was generally higher than in previous sessions. Significantly enough, none of the course critiques included any criticism of speakers for lack of preparation, poor delivery or plain ignorance. As one student observed in his critique, "Speakers were almost without exception able to present their material in an informative and often colorful manner." Better presentations, of course, could have stimulated the more and better questioning mentioned above.

Among regular or frequent speakers in the course Messers consistently keep their audiences with them. Especially effective first-timers were an OCI analyst with a talent for rising above the minutiae of his material, an "unpolished diamond" making his first public platform appearance, the frank, mordant full of practical advice, and

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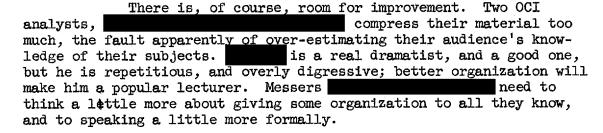
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- does he need introducing? The most impressive presentation was made by our first non-Agency speaker, Mr. William Marsh of the Department of State, who is as articulate and erudite an expositor of the U. S. role in Vietnam as has come down the pike.

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c. An event in Saigon, the establishment under Deputy Ambassador Porter of the Office of Civil Operations, provoked considerable comment and speculation by speakers and students alike isasmuch as the Vietnam Station is so greatly affected by the new office. Mr. C/FE/was discussing the new set-up with the class apparently within hours of its becoming known within FE.

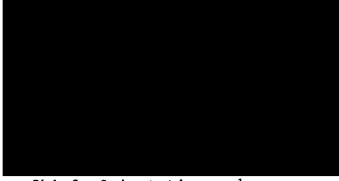
3. Course critiques: Twelve of the students wrote critiques. All but one were favorable, and the one made these cryptic comments: "Almost all information was covered in previous courses." and "Poor planning and utilization of time." My own reaction was: here is a morale case, probably one of the contract people who have been in training since February.

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Chief, Orientation and Briefing Faculty